

Permitting & Assistance Branch Staff Report
Modified Solid Waste Facilities Permit for
Santa Maria Regional Landfill
SWIS No. 42-AA-0016
October 2, 2013

Background Information, Analysis, and Findings:

This report was developed in response to the Santa Barbara County, Public Health Department, Environmental Health Services (LEA) request for the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Department) concurrence on the issuance of a proposed modified Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) for Santa Maria Regional Landfill, SWIS No. 42-AA-0016, located in Santa Barbara County and owned/operated by City of Santa Maria. A copy of the proposed permit is attached. This report contains Permitting & Assistance Branch staff's analysis, findings, and recommendations.

The proposed permit was initially received on August 16, 2013. A new proposed permit was received on October 1, 2013. Action must be taken on this permit no later than November 30, 2013. If no action is taken by November 30, 2013, the Department will be deemed to have concurred with the issuance of the proposed modified SWFP.

Proposed Project:

No changes are proposed to the first page of the current 2010 SWFP. There are no proposed changes in the design or operation of the existing facility from those already allowed by the 2010 SWFP. Changes to the proposed SWFP include:

1. Updated documents that describe and/or restrict the operations of the facility, including the Joint Technical Document and Preliminary Closure and Postclosure Maintenance Plans.

Key Issues:

The proposed modified SWFP will allow for incorporating the updated Joint Technical Document and Preliminary Closure and Postclosure Maintenance Plans that describe and/or restrict the operations of the facility in the SWFP.

Background:

Santa Maria Regional Sanitary Landfill is an existing landfill located at 2065 Main Street, in Santa Maria. The existing site is owned and operated by the City of Santa Maria and is operating under a SWFP issued on January 7, 2010.

Findings:

Staff recommends concurrence in the issuance of the proposed modified SWFP. All of the submittals and findings required by Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations (27 CCR), Section 21685, have been provided and made. Staff has determined that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements have been met to support concurrence. The findings that are required to be made by the Department when reaching a determination are summarized in the following table. The documents on which staff's findings are based have been provided to the Branch Chief with this Staff Report and are permanently maintained by the Waste Permitting, Compliance and Mitigation Division.

27 CCR Sections	Findings	
21685(b)(1) LEA Certified Complete and Correct Report of Facility Information	The LEA provided the required certification in their permit submittal letter dated August 12, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685(b)(2) LEA Five Year Permit Review	A Permit Review Report was prepared by the LEA on July 31, 2013. The LEA provided a copy to the Department on August 16, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685(b)(3) Solid Waste Facility Permit	Staff received a proposed Solid Waste Facilities Permit on October 1, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685 (b)(4)(A) Consistency with Public Resources Code 50001	The LEA in their permit submittal package received on August 14, 2013, provided a finding that the facility is consistent with PRC 50001. Waste Evaluation & Enforcement Branch (WEEB) staff in the Jurisdiction Product & Compliance Unit found the facility is identified in the Countywide Siting Element as described in the memorandum dated August 19, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685 (b)(5) Preliminary or Final Closure/ Postclosure Maintenance Plans Consistency with State Minimum Standards	Engineering Support Branch staff in the Closure and Facility Engineering Unit found the Preliminary Closure/Postclosure Maintenance Plan is consistent with State Minimum Standards as described in their email dated September 27, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685(b)(6) Known or Reasonably Foreseeable Corrective Action Cost Estimate	The Engineering Support Branch staff in the Closure and Facility Engineering Unit found the written estimate to cover the cost of known or reasonably foreseeable corrective action activities has been submitted as noted in their email dated September 27, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685 (b)(7)(A) Financial Assurances Documentation Compliance	Permitting and Assistance Branch staff in the Financial Assurances Unit found the Financial Assurances documentation in compliance as described in their email dated September 30, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685 (b)(7)(B) Operating Liability Compliance	Permitting and Assistance Branch staff in the Financial Assurances Unit found the Operating Liability in compliance as described in their email dated October 2, 2013.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685(b)(8) Operations Consistent with State Minimum Standards	WEEB staff in the Inspection and Enforcement Agency Compliance Unit found that the facility was in compliance with all operating and design requirements during an inspection conducted on September 11, 2013. See Compliance History below for details.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable
21685(b)(9) LEA CEQA Finding	The LEA provided a finding in their permit submittal package received on August 14, 2013, that the proposed permit is consistent with and supported by the existing CEQA documentation. See Environmental Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable

27 CCR Sections	Findings	
	below for details.	
CEQA Determination to Support Responsible Agency's Findings	The Department is a responsible agency under CEQA with respect to this project. Permitting and Assistance Branch staff has determined that the CEQA record can be used to support the Branch Chief's action on the proposed modified SWFP.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acceptable <input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable

Compliance History:

WEEB staff in the Inspection and Enforcement Agency Compliance Unit conducted a pre-permit inspection on September 11, 2013, and found the facility to be in compliance with applicable state minimum standards and permit conditions.

Below are the details of the landfill's compliance history based on the LEA's monthly inspection reports during the last five years:

- 2013 (January through September) – No violations noted.
- 2012 – No violations noted.
- 2011 – Seven violations of 27 CCR Section 20921 – Gas Monitoring and Control noted.
- 2010 – Four violations of 27 CCR Section 20921- Gas Monitoring and Control noted.
- 2009 – No violations noted.
- 2008 – Four violations of 27 CCR Section 20921- Gas Monitoring and Control noted.

All violations were corrected to the satisfaction of the LEA.

Environmental Analysis:

Under CEQA, the Department must consider, and avoid or substantially lessen where possible, any potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed SWFP before the Department concurs on it. In this case, the Department is a Responsible Agency under CEQA and must make a determination as to whether this modified SWFP is categorically or statutorily exempt or additional CEQA analysis is required.

The SWFP is being modified to incorporate the updated Joint Technical Document, and Preliminary Closure and Postclosure Maintenance Plans in the SWFP.

The Santa Barbara County, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services (LEA), has provided a finding that the proposed changes are consistent with all applicable CEQA documents and no additional CEQA is warranted for the issuance of the modified SWFP. However, staff recommends that the Department, acting as a Responsible Agency under CEQA, prepare a Notice of Exemption, based on the Categorical Exemption for existing facilities (14 CCR, Section 15301), to be filed with the State Clearinghouse after the Department's concurrence of the modified SWFP in that the proposed permit is to be issued for an existing facility that is not expanding beyond its existing use.

Department staff further recommends the Categorical Exemption is adequate for the Branch Chief's environmental evaluation of the proposed project for those project activities which are within the Department's expertise and authority, or which are required to be carried out or approved by the Department.

The administrative record for the decision to be made by the Department includes the administrative record before the LEA, the proposed modified SWFP and all of its components and supporting documentation, this staff report, the MND adopted by the Lead Agency, and other documents and materials utilized by the Department in reaching its decision on concurrence in, or objection to, the proposed modified SWFP. The custodian of the Department's administrative record is Dona Sturgess, Legal Office, Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, P.O. Box 4025, Sacramento, CA 95812-4025.

Public Comments:

The project document availability, hearings, and associated meetings were noticed consistent with the requirements for a modified SWFP.

The Department staff provided an opportunity for public comment during the CalRecycle Monthly Public Meeting on August 17, 2013 and September 17, 2013. No oral or written comments were received by Department staff during the public meeting.